



ALL PROGRESSIVES CONGRESS

National Secretariat (Buhari House) 40 Blantyre Street, Wuse II, Abuja-Nigeria

ATTN: ALL MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION,
ALL PROGRESSIVES CONGRESS (APC).

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ALL PROGRESSIVES CONGRESS

APC Constitution 2014 has been in effect for almost eight years and together with judgments from Courts of competent jurisdiction, administrative experiences have revealed flaws in the Constitution. It became imperative to conduct a review of the Party's Constitution.

The Caretaker/Extraordinary Convention Planning Committee (CEPC) established a Constitution Review Committee (CRC) under the chairmanship of Prof. Tahir Mamman OON, SAN to thoroughly review the Constitution in accordance with Article 30 which provides for Constitutional amendments.

The Committee adopted an all-inclusive approach which led to the draft proposals herein provided for. Broadly, the proposals address the following:

1. Clarify ambiguities in the Constitution.
2. Fill gaps that became apparent.
3. Recognize and expand platforms for participation of critical groups such as women, youth, and persons with disabilities.
4. Replace the BOT under a new title called National Advisory Council with streamlined memberships and clear powers and functions.
5. Create zonal congresses.
6. Clarify powers of NEC and NWC.
7. Clearer accountability by organs of the party.
8. New organs for efficient administration of the party.
9. Fair distribution of income between national and sub-national organs.
10. Clarify disciplinary procedures and powers etc.

Specific provisions covering the above and other details are in the draft articles provided hereunder as follows:

APC PROPOSED AMENDED CONSTITUTION SHOWING IN RED

ARTICLE	CRC VERSION	CRC RATIONALE FOR ALTERATION
	<p>PREAMBLE</p> <p>WHEREAS the All Progressives Congress was founded in 2013 as a progressive Party committed to building a new social, economic and political order;</p> <p>WHEREAS it is only through a truly united and democratic nation that all Nigerians can realize and fulfil their aspirations for human dignity, happiness and development;</p> <p>NOW THEREFORE: WE the progressives and patriots, determined to render service at all levels of governance; and to build a nation which will guarantee equal opportunity for all, mutual and peaceful co-existence, respect and understanding, eliminating all forms of discrimination and social injustice among Nigerians, rendering selfless service that will rekindle a deep sense of patriotism and nationalism; hereby make, enact and give the following Constitution to ourselves for effective governance of our Party and promotion of its ideals, aims, and objectives.</p>	<p>Clarity and drafting elegance</p>

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1	<p>ARTICLE 1: NAME OF THE PARTY There shall be a Political Party called, addressed and known as All Progressives Congress with the abbreviation "APC", hereinafter referred to as the "Party".</p>	
2	<p>ARTICLE 2: SUPREMACY OF THE PARTY CONSTITUTION 1. Subject to the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) and any other law for the time being in force in the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the provisions of this Constitution shall be supreme and shall have binding force on all members and organs of the Party. 2. Where any rule, regulation, guideline or any other enactment made by any organ or body established by the Party is inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution, such rule, regulation, guideline or enactment shall, to the extent of the inconsistency, be null and void and of no effect whatsoever.</p>	Amended for clarity
3	<p>ARTICLE 3: MOTTO: JUSTICE, PEACE AND UNITY</p>	
4	<p>ARTICLE 4: SLOGAN: PROGRESS</p>	Amended for more appropriate slogan
5	<p>ARTICLE 5: FLAG: The flag of the Party shall be green, white (with a hand-held broom super-imposed) and sky blue, all of which are placed on a red base in which APC white painted acronym is inscribed.</p>	Amended for clarity
6	<p>ARTICLE 6: SYMBOL: The flag of the party with a hand-held broom super-imposed on the white portion</p>	Amended for clarity
7	<p>ARTICLE 7: AIMS AND OBJECTIVES The aims and objectives of the Party shall be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. To promote and foster the unity, political stability and national consciousness of the people of Nigeria. ii. iv. To sponsor eligible candidates and canvass for votes in election into all elective offices in all tiers of government. v. To consciously pursue the implementation of the policies and programmes of the Party, through its members appointed and/or elected into government, legislative houses and Boards throughout the Federation. vi. To develop and promote economic policies that guarantee public participation in and, where necessary, control of the major means of production, distribution and exchange. vii. To observe Affirmative Action in all elective and appointive positions and ensure that youth, women and Persons Living with Disabilities (PLWDs) are properly represented across all Party organs and government. viii. To promote and protect the interest of farmers, workers, women, youth and Persons Living with Disabilities (PLWDs) in Nigeria. ix. To promote and uphold the principles and practice of internal democracy at all levels of the Party. x. To institutionalise, maintain and foster representative democracy, discipline and observance of the rule of law in the Federal Republic of Nigeria. xi. To co-operate with any political or other organisations whose aims and objectives align with those of the Party. xii. To actively condemn and resist all forms of oppression and exploitation. xiii. xiv. To ensure and defend the freedom of the Press, fundamental freedoms and human rights of all Nigerians. xv. To promote a dynamic foreign policy aimed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Friendly and reciprocal relations with other countries. b) c) Promotion of cultural values of peoples of African descent. d) Maintenance of international peace, harmony and cooperation. xvi. 	Amended for clarity and provision for affirmative action for Women, Youth and Persons Living with Disabilities
8	<p>ARTICLE 8: SECRETARIAT i. The Registered office of the Party shall be in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, at a location to be determined by the National Executive Committee. ii. Zonal offices and offices in State capitals shall be determined by the appropriate Executive Committees with the approval of the National Working Committee. iii. Offices at the Local Government Areas, Wards and other places shall be determined by the State Executive Committee.</p>	Clarity on citing of offices
9	<p>ARTICLE 9: MEMBERSHIP 9.1 Eligibility/Registration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Membership of the Party shall be open to any citizen of the Federal Republic of Nigeria who has attained the age of 18 years and who accepts the aims and objectives of the Party, and is willing to abide by the provisions of this Constitution, provided that such a person is not a member of any other political party. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clarity 2. Appeal System for denied

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- ii. Application for membership shall be made to and cleared by the Ward Executive **Committee** of the Party in the Ward of the Local Government Area where the person was born, resides, works or originates. On-line registration shall also be acceptable, provided that it is **approved** by the National Working Committee of the Party.
- iii. **Where an application is refused, the applicant may as of right appeal to the Local Government Area Executive Committee of the Party and sequentially up to the National Working Committee. In the case of on-line registration, appeals shall lie to the National Working Committee.**
- iv. **Upon enrolment, every member shall pay the prescribed fees and shall be issued a membership card.**

3. registration.
Provision for payment of fees

9.2 Obligations

- i. Members of the Party shall be obliged to affirm the Party's aims and objectives and conduct themselves in a manner that shall not bring the Party to public odium and disrepute. Members of the Party shall also observe the rules and regulations embedded in this Constitution.
- ii. **Members shall pay, as and when due, all dues and levies as may be prescribed by the National Working Committee and approved by National Executive Committee.**
- iii. Members shall participate in the activities of the Party **such as** election campaigns, rallies, fund raising, functions, meetings, etc.

9.3 Rights and Privileges

- i. Only fully registered and financially up-to-date members of the Party shall have the right to vote and be voted for into any elective positions, subject to the provisions made for such elections **under** this Constitution or other laws or regulations. Consequently, non-financial members shall not enjoy the above rights.
- ii. Subject to article 9.3(i) above, members shall enjoy the privileges of the Party and shall be entitled to be appointed to any committee of the Party upon the approval of the Executive Committees of the Party at the various levels.
- iii. **APC-led Governments at all levels shall accord qualified members of the party priority in appointments to positions in ministries, departments and agencies.**
- iv. **Failure to pay dues shall attract a penalty of fifty (50) percent of the accrued sum.**
- v. **The rights and privileges of defaulting members shall be suspended until payment is made and the National Working Committee approves the reinstatement of such rights and privileges.**

1. Provide priority for APC members in appointments
2. penalty for failure to pay dues

9.4 Register of Members

- i. A register of members shall be compiled and maintained at the Ward level and be transmitted to the Secretariat of the Party at the Local Government Area, which shall transmit a copy to the State Headquarters, which in turn shall transmit a copy to the National Secretariat. Provided that the Party shall update its membership **register** every six months and remit updated copies to appropriate Secretariats.
- ii. It shall be the responsibility of a member to ensure that his or her name is duly entered in the Ward register.
- iii. Where a group or association joins the Party, the Party shall welcome the group or association, but each member of such group or association shall register individually at their respective Wards.
- iv. Where eligible persons for membership of the Party numbering thirty (30) or more reside in any country outside Nigeria, they may establish a chapter of the Party and shall enjoy full benefits of membership; **provided that no city shall have more than one (1) chapter.**
- v. **Members residing outside Nigeria may establish one (1) national chapter in their country of residence.**
- vi. **The local and national chapters of the Party outside Nigeria shall forward the list of duly elected Executive Committee at their congresses to the National Working Committee for approval.**

Provision for diaspora chapters

9.5 Cessation of Membership

- i. Membership of the Party shall be terminated by death, resignation, expulsion **and** procurement of membership of another political party.
- ii. **A person shall cease to be a member of the Party if he accepts political appointment from another political party in government without the approval of the National Working Committee.**
- iii. Upon cessation of membership, a person shall return to the Party all its properties in his or her possession.

Appointment in government other than APC government

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10	<p>ARTICLE 10: PARTY ORGANISATION</p> <p>A. There shall be seven (7) levels of Party organisation as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. the National, ii. the Zone, iii. the Senatorial District, iv. the State, v. the Local Government Area/Area Council, vi. the Ward, and vii. the Polling Unit. <p>B. Each of the levels in article 10(A) above shall have a functional secretariat.</p> <p>C. Wings of the Party There shall be the following wings of the Party:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Women, ii. Youth, iii. Persons Living with Disabilities, and iv. Any other wing the National Executive Committee may deem fit to create. 	<p>Amended to provide wider platform for critical groups.</p>
11	<p>ARTICLE 11: PARTY ORGANS</p> <p>A. The Party shall have the following principal organs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. National Convention, ii. National Advisory Council, iii. National Executive Committee, iv. National Working Committee, v. Zonal Congress, vi. Zonal Executive Committee, vii. State Congress, viii. State Executive Committee, ix. State Working Committee, x. Senatorial District Committee, xi. Local Government Area/Area Council Congress, xii. Local Government Area/Area Council Executive Committee, xiii. Ward Congress, xiv. Ward Executive Committee, and xv. Polling Unit Committee. <p>OTHER ORGANS</p> <p>B. The Party shall have the following other bodies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. National Caucus, ii. State Caucus, and iii. Local Government Area/Area Council Caucus. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Replaced BoT with National Advisory Council as a more appropriate title. 2. Established Zonal Congress
12	<p>ARTICLE 12: COMPOSITION OF PARTY ORGANS</p> <p>The Party organs listed in article 11 above, shall be composed as follows:</p> <p>12.1 National Convention</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. the National Chairman, ii. members of the National Advisory Council, iii. members of the National Executive Committee, iv. serving and past Presidents and Vice Presidents of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, who are members of the Party, v. serving and past Governors and Deputy Governors of States of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, who are members of the Party, <p>There shall be a National Executive Committee of the Party consisting of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. the National Chairman, ii. the Deputy National Chairman (North), iii. the Deputy National Chairman (South), iv. the National Secretary, v. the Deputy National Secretary, vi. the six National Vice Chairmen, one from each geo-political zone of the country (to be known as Zonal Chairmen), vii. the National Legal Adviser, viii. the Deputy National Legal Adviser, ix. the National Treasurer, x. the Deputy National Treasurer, 	

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- xi. the National Financial Secretary,
- xii. the Deputy National Financial Secretary,
- xiii. the National Organising Secretary,
- xiv. the Deputy National Organising Secretary,
- xv. the National Publicity Secretary,
- xvi. the Deputy National Publicity Secretary,
- xvii. the National Welfare Secretary,
- xviii. the Deputy National Welfare Secretary,
- xix. the National Auditor,
- xx. the Deputy National Auditor,
- xxi. the National Woman Leader,
- xxii. the Deputy National Woman Leader,
- xxiii. the National Youth Leader,
- xxiv. the Deputy National Youth Leader (who shall be a woman if the National Youth Leader is a man),
- xxv. the National Leader of Persons Living with Disabilities,
- xxvi. the Deputy National Leader of Persons Living with Disabilities (shall be a woman where the National Leader of Persons Living with Disabilities is a man),
- xxvii. the State Chairmen of the Party,
- xxviii. the President and Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, who are members of the Party,
- xxix. the President and Deputy President of the Senate, who are members of the Party,
- xxx. the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, who are members of the Party,
- xxxi. Governors of the States of the Federation, who are members of the Party,
- xxxii. the Majority or Minority Leader, Party Whip and their Deputies in the Senate and House of Representatives, who are members of the Party,
- ~~xxxiii.~~ two serving Senators from each geo-political zone of the country, who are members of the Party, to be nominated by Senators from such zone,
- xxxiv. one member of the House of Representatives from each geo-political zone of the country, who is a member of the Party, to be nominated by members of the House of Representative from such zone,
- xxxv. six (6) ex-officio members, who shall be elected by the National Convention, one from each geo-political zone of the country, and
- xxxvi. the National Secretary and National Organising Secretary of each wing of the Party.

To expand composition

12.4 National Working Committee

There shall be a National Working Committee of the Party consisting of:

- i. the National Chairman,
- ii. the Deputy National Chairman (North),
- iii. the Deputy National Chairman (South),
- iv. the National Secretary,
- v. the Deputy National Secretary,
- vi. six (6) National Vice Chairmen, one from each geo-political zone of the Country (to be known as Zonal Chairmen),
- vii. the National Legal Adviser,
- viii. the National Treasurer,
- ix. the National Financial Secretary,
- x. the National Organising Secretary,
- xi. the National Welfare Secretary,
- xii. the National Publicity Secretary,
- xiii. the National Auditor,
- xiv. the National Woman Leader,
- xv. the Deputy National Woman Leader,
- xvi. the National Youth Leader, and
- xvii. the National Leader of Persons Living with Disabilities.

12.5 National Caucus

There shall be a National Caucus of the Party consisting of:

- i. the National Chairman (who shall be the Chairman),
- ii. the Deputy National Chairman (North),
- iii. the Deputy National Chairman (South),
- iv. the National Secretary,
- v. the National Legal Adviser,
- vi. the National Treasurer,
- vii. the National Organising Secretary,
- viii. the National Woman Leader,
- ix. the National Youth Leader,
- x. the National Leader of Persons Living with Disabilities,
- xi. past and present Presidents and Vice Presidents of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, who are members of the Party,
- xii. current Presidential and Vice Presidential Candidates of the Party,
- xiii. past and present Presidents and Deputy Presidents of the Senate, who are members of the Party,

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- xiv. present and past Speakers of the House of Representatives and Deputy Speakers, who are members of the Party,
- xv. serving Majority or Minority Leader, Whips and their Deputies in the Senate and House of Representatives, who are members of the Party,
- xvi. past and present Governors of the States of the Federation, who are members of the Party,
- xvii. the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, who is a member of the Party,
- xviii. the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Secretary of the National Advisory Council of the Party,
- xix. former National Chairmen and National Secretaries of the Party,
- xx. the Zonal Chairman,
- xxi. two members from each zone, one of whom shall be the Zonal Vice Chairman and the other a woman, and
- xxii. such other members as may be co-opted or appointed by the National Executive Committee.

To provide for Zonal Congress

12.6 Zonal Congress

There shall be for each of the six geo-political zones of the country, a Zonal Congress consisting of:

- i. the Zonal Chairman,
- ii. all past Zonal Chairmen of the Party,
- iii. all Zonal Executive officers,
- iv. serving and past State Governors from the zone, who are members of the Party,
- v. serving and past members of the National Assembly from the zone, who are members of the Party,
- vi. serving and past principal officers of State Houses of Assembly from the zone, who are members of the Party,
- vii. the State Party Chairman from the zone,
- viii. all members of the National Executive Committee from the zone,
- ix. all National Caucus members from the zone, and
- x. all other statutory delegates to the National convention.

12.7 Zonal Executive Committee

There shall be for each of the six geo-political zones of the country, a Zonal Executive Committee consisting of:

- i. the Zonal Chairman (National Vice Chairman),
- ii. the Zonal Secretary,
- iii. the Zonal Legal Adviser,
- iv. the Zonal Organising Secretary,
- v. the Zonal Publicity Secretary,
- vi. the Zonal Woman Leader,
- vii. the Zonal Youth Leader,
- viii. the Zonal Leader of Persons Living with Disabilities,
- ix. all States' Chairmen from the zone,
- x. Presidents and Vice Presidents of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, who are members of the Party from the zone,
- xi. past and present Governors and Deputy Governors of the States within the zone, who are members of the Party,
- xii. all members of the National Executive Committee from the zone,
- xiii. all serving and past members of the National Assembly, who are members of the Party from the zone,
- xiv. all serving and past Speakers and Deputy Speakers of the State Houses of Assembly, who are members of the party from the zone, and
- xv. all members of the National Caucus from the geo-political zone.

12.8 State Congress

There shall be for each State Chapter of the Party, a State Congress consisting of:

- i. members of the National Advisory Council from the State,
- ii. the State Chairman and members of the State Executive Committee,
- iii. the State Governor and Deputy Governor, who are members of the Party,
- iv. all serving and past members of the National Assembly, who are members of the Party from the State,
- v. all members of the National Executive Committee from the State,
- vi. all serving and past members of the State House of Assembly, who are members of the Party from the State,
- vii. all elected Local Government Areas/Area Councils Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen, who are members of the Party,
- viii. all elected Councillors of Local Government Areas/Area Councils, who are members of the Party from the State,
- ix. all Chairmen and Secretaries of the Party in the Local Government Areas of the State/Area council of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja,
- x. five delegates per ward (at least, two of whom shall be women) elected at the Ward Congress, who shall cease to function after the conclusion of the State Congress for which they were elected, and
- xi. members of the Zonal Executive Committee from the State.

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12.9 State Executive Committee

There shall be for each State Chapter of the Party a State Executive Committee consisting of:

- i. the State Chairman,
- ii. **National Officers/Zonal Officers of the Party from the State,**
- iii. the Deputy State Chairman,
- iv. the State Secretary,
- v. the State Assistant Secretary;
- vi. three (3) Zonal Vice Chairmen (one from each Senatorial District),
- vii. the State Legal Adviser;
- viii. the State Assistant Legal Adviser,
- ix. the State Treasurer,
- x. the State Assistant Treasurer,
- xi. the State Financial Secretary,
- xii. the State Assistant Financial Secretary,
- xiii. the State Organising Secretary,
- xiv. the State Assistant Organising Secretary,
- xv. the State Publicity Secretary,
- xvi. the State Assistant Publicity Secretary,
- xvii. the State Welfare Secretary,
- xviii. the State Assistant Welfare Secretary,
- xix. the State Auditor,
- xx. the State Assistant Auditor,
- xxi. the State Woman Leader,
- xxii. the State Assistant Woman Leader,
- xxiii. the State Youth Leader,
- xxiv. the State Assistant Youth Leader **(who shall be a woman where the State Youth Leader is a man),**
- xxv. the **State Leader of Persons Living with Disabilities,**
- xxvi. the **State Deputy Leader of Persons Living with Disabilities (who shall be a woman where the State Leader of Persons Living with Disabilities is a man),**
- xxvii. the Senatorial Youth Leader,
- xxviii. the Senatorial Woman Leader,
- xxix. four (4) ex-officio members (at least one of whom shall be a woman and at least one from each Senatorial District of the State),
- xxx. the Governor and Deputy Governor of the State, who are members of the Party,
- xxxi. the Speaker, Deputy Speaker and other principal officers of the House of Assembly, who are members of the Party, and
- xxxii. all other statutory members of the National Convention from the State.

To expand composition

12.10 State Caucus

There shall be for each State Chapter of the Party, a State Caucus consisting of:

- i. the **State Party Chairman, who shall be the Chairman;**
- ii. past State Party Chairmen of the Party,
- iii. serving and past State Party Deputy Chairmen of the Party,
- iv. serving and past State Secretaries of the Party,
- v. serving and past State Governors and Deputy Governors who are members of the Party,
- vi. current Gubernatorial and Deputy Gubernatorial Candidates of the Party,
- vii. serving and past members of the National Assembly who are members of the Party,
- viii. principal officers of the State House of Assembly who are members of the Party,
- ix. the Secretary to the State Government, who is a member of the Party,
- x. the State Party Treasurer,
- xi. the State Woman Leader,
- xii. the State Youth Leader,
- xiii. the **State Leader of Persons Living with Disabilities Leader,**
- xiv. the State Party Legal Adviser,
- xv. past Speakers and Deputy Speakers of the State House of Assembly who are members of the Party,
- xvi. all members of National and Zonal Executive Committees from the State,
- xvii. all National Caucus members from the State, and
- xviii. six women (two from each Senatorial District of the State) to be appointed by the State Executive Committee.

12.11 State Working Committee

There shall be for each State Chapter of the Party a State Working Committee consisting of:

- i. the State Chairman,
- ii. **three (3) Deputy State Chairmen (one from each Senatorial District),**
- iii. the State Secretary,
- iv. the State Assistant Secretary,
- v. the State Legal Adviser,

To expand composition

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- vi. the State Treasurer,
- vii. the State Financial Secretary,
- viii. the State Organising Secretary,
- ix. the State Publicity Secretary,
- x. the State Welfare Secretary,
- xi. the State Auditor,
- xii. the State Woman Leader,
- xiii. the State Assistant Woman Leader,
- xiv. the State Youth Leader, and
- xv. the State Leader of Persons Living with Disabilities

12.12 Senatorial District Committee

There shall be for each of the three (3) Senatorial Districts of a State, a Senatorial District Committee consisting of:

- i. the Senatorial District Chairman (who shall be the State Deputy Chairman from the District),
- ii. members of National, Zonal and State Executive Committees from the District,
- iii. the Senatorial District Secretary,
- iv. the Senatorial District Legal Adviser,
- v. the Senatorial District Organizing Secretary,
- vi. the Senatorial District Publicity Secretary,
- vii. the Senatorial District Woman Leader,
- viii. the Senatorial District Youth Leader,
- ix. the Senatorial District Leader of Persons living with Disabilities,
- x. all Local Government Area/Area Council Party Chairmen from the Senatorial District,
- xi. the Governor and Deputy Governor of the State elected on the platform of the Party from the Senatorial District,
- xii. past and present Local Government Council/Area Council Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen within the Senatorial District who are elected on the platform of the Party,
- xiii. all members of the National and State Executive Committees of the Party from the Senatorial District,
- xiv. all serving and past members of the National and State Assembly from the Senatorial District who are members of the Part, and
- xv. all members of the National Caucus from the Senatorial District.

12.13 Local Government Area and Area Council Congress

There shall be for each Local Government Area and Area Council Chapters of the Party, a Local Government Area/Area Council Congress consisting of:

- i. all members of the National, Zonal, and State Executive Committees from the Local Government Area/Area Council,
- ii. all members of the Local Government Area/Area Council Executive Committee,
- iii. the Chairman and Secretary of the Ward Executive Committee in the Local Government Area/Area Council,
- iv. Chairmen and Councillors of the Local Government/Area Council who are members of the Party,
- v. five Delegates, at least two of whom shall be women, from each Ward of the Local Government Area/Area Council elected at the Ward Congress who shall cease to function after the Local Government Area/Area Council Congress for which they were elected, and
- vi. all statutory members of the State Congress from the Local Government Area/Area Council.

Expand composition to include Women, Youth and Persons Living with Disabilities

12.14 Local Government Area Executive Committee

There shall be for each Local Government Area and Area Council Chapters of the Party, a Local Government Area and Area Council Executive Committee consisting of:

- i. Local Government Area/Area Council Party Chairman,
- ii. Local Government Area/Area Council Deputy Party Chairman who shall be a woman where the Chairman is a man,
- iii. all Ward Party Chairmen in the Local Government Area/Area Council,
- iv. Local Government Area/Area Council Party Secretary,
- v. Local Government Area/Area Council Assistant Party Secretary,
- vi. Local Government Area/Area Council Party Legal Adviser,
- vii. Local Government/Area Council Assistant Party Legal Adviser,
- viii. Local Government Area/Area Council Party Treasurer,
- ix. Local Government Area/Area Council Assistant Party Treasurer who shall be a woman,
- x. Local Government Area/Area Council Party Financial Secretary,
- xi. Local Government Area/Area Council Party Assistant Financial Secretary,
- xii. Local Government Area/Area Council Party Publicity Secretary,
- xiii. Local Government Area/Area Council Party Assistant Publicity Secretary,
- xiv. Local Government Area/Area Council Party Welfare, Secretary who shall be a woman,
- xv. Local Government Area/Area Council Party Assistant Welfare Secretary,
- xvi. Local Government Area/Area Council Party Organising Secretary,

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- xvii. Local Government Area/Area Council Party Assistant Organising Secretary,
- xviii. Local Government Area/Area Council Party Auditor,
- xix. Local Government Area/Area Council Party Assistant Auditor,
- xx. Local Government Area/Area Council Party Women Leader,
- xxi. Local Government Area/Area Council Party Assistant Women Leader,
- xxii. Local Government Area/Area Council Party Youth Leader,
- xxiii. Local Government Area/Area Council Party Assistant Youth Leader (who shall be a Woman where the Local Government Area/Area Council Party Youth Leader is a man),
- xxiv. Local Government Area/Area Council Party Leader of Persons Living with Disabilities,
- xxv. Local Government Area/Area Council Party Assistant Leader of Persons Living with Disabilities (who shall be a Woman where the Local Government Area/Area Council Party Leader of Persons Living with Disabilities is a man),
- xxvi. four (4) ex-officio members elected by the Congress (one of whom shall be a woman), and
- xxvii. all members of the National, Zonal, State and District Executive Committees who are from the Local Government Area/Area Council.

Provide some parity for Women

12.15 Local Government Area/Area Council Caucus

There shall be for each Local Government Area/Area Council Chapter of the Party, a Local Government Area and Area Council Caucus consisting of:

- i. Local Government Area/Area Council Party Chairman (who shall be the Chairman),
- ii. Local Government Area/Area Council Party Vice Chairman,
- iii. Local Government Area Council/Area Council Chairman, and Deputy Chairman who are
 - vi. serving and past members of the National Assembly and all serving members of State Houses of Assembly, who are members of the Party,
 - vii. Serving non-career ambassadors who are members of the Party,
 - viii. past Speakers, Deputy Speakers and other principal officers of State Houses of Assembly, who are members of the Party,
 - ix. past members of the National Working Committee and any organ created by the Party to exercise the powers and functions of the National Working Committee,
 - x. members of the States' Working Committee, including the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja,
 - xi. all Party Chairmen and Secretaries of the Local Government Areas/Area Councils in the country, who are members of the Party,
 - xii. all elected Local Government Council/Area Council Chairmen, who are members of the Party,
 - xiii. three elected delegates (at least one of whom shall be a woman) from each Local Government Area/Area Council,
 - xiv. the National Secretary and National Organising Secretary of each wing of the Party, and
 - xv. the Chairman and Secretary of the Committee of Diaspora Chairmen.

1. Amended for clarity
2. Amended to expand the scope of representation

12.2 National Advisory Council

A. Composition

The National Advisory Council shall comprise of:

- i. past and present Presidents and Vice Presidents of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, who are members of the Party,
- ii. past and serving Senate Presidents and Deputy Senate Presidents of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, who are members of the Party,
- iii. past and serving Speakers and Deputy Speakers of the House of Representatives, who are members of the Party,
- iv. past and serving National Chairmen produced by the All Progressives Congress,
- v. past National Secretary of the Party
- vi. past and serving Secretary to the Government of the Federation who is a member of the Party
- vii. one serving Governor from each geo-political zone,
- viii. the Deputy National Chairmen,
- ix. the National Secretary,
- x. the National Legal Adviser,
- xi. the National Woman Leader,
- xii. the National Youth Leader,
- xiii. the National Leader of Persons Living with Disabilities, and
- xiv. two eminent members of the Party from each geo-political zone, one of whom shall be a woman, to be nominated by the zonal caucus.

Amended to:
1. Change title to more appropriate title
2. Provide for leadership structure
3. Streamline composition
4. Provide for commencement timeline

B. Qualification/Eligibility for Membership.

Pursuant to the provisions of article 12.2(A) above, a registered member of the Party shall be eligible for membership of the National Advisory Council if:

- i. He has not been convicted by a Court of competent jurisdiction for an offence involving fraud or dishonesty.
- ii. He has not been adjudged to be a lunatic or otherwise declared to be of unsound mind under any Law in force in any part of Nigeria.
- iii. He has not been adjudged or declared bankrupt.
- iv. He has not been impeached from any office in the Federation; State and Local Government Area/Area Council or dismissed from public or private service.
- v. He is a person of proven integrity, impeccable character and verifiable track record of service to humanity.

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12.3 National Executive Committee

- i. There shall be in each Polling Unit, a Polling Unit Committee consisting of:
 - a) the Polling Unit Chairman,
 - b) the Polling Unit Deputy Chairman,
 - c) the Polling Unit Secretary,
 - d) the Polling Unit Assistant Secretary,
 - e) the Polling Unit Treasurer,
 - f) the Polling Unit Assistant Treasurer,
 - g) the Polling Unit Woman Mobiliser,
 - h) the Polling Unit Assistant Woman Mobiliser,
 - i) the Polling Unit Youth Mobiliser,
 - j) the **Persons Living with Disabilities** Mobiliser,
 - k) all members of the National, State, Local Government Area/Area Council and Ward Executive Committees from the Polling Unit.
- ii. Where the Polling Unit Chairman is a man, the Deputy Polling Unit Chairman shall be a woman and *vice versa*.
- iii. Where the Polling Unit Secretary is a man, the assistant Polling Unit Secretary shall be a woman and *vice versa*.

12.19 Women's Wing

- i. Membership of the Women's Wing shall be open to all women who are members of the Party.
- ii. The Women's Wing shall function as an autonomous body within the overall structure of the Party, of which it shall be an integral part, and subject to the supervisory and disciplinary powers of the Party.
- iii. The constitution, rules and regulations of the Women's Wing shall not be in conflict with the Constitution, guidelines and policies of the Party.
- iv. The constitution of the Women's Wing shall be subject to the approval of the National Executive Committee of the Party.
- v. The National Woman Leader shall be the leader of the Women's Wing.

12.20 Youth Wing

- i. Membership of the Youth Wing shall be open to all youth, as defined in this Constitution, who are members of the Party.
- ii. The Youth Wing shall function as an autonomous body within the overall structure of the Party, of which it shall be an integral part, and subject to the supervisory and disciplinary powers of the Party.
- iii. The constitution, rules and regulations of the Youth Wing shall not be in conflict with the Constitution, guidelines and policies of the Party.
- iv. The constitution of the Youth Wing shall be subject to the approval of the National Executive Committee of the Party.
- v. The National Youth Leader shall be the leader of the Youth Wing.

12.21 Persons Living with Disabilities Wing

- i. Membership of the Persons Living with Disabilities Wing shall be open to all persons living with disabilities, who are members of the Party.
- ii. The Persons Living with Disabilities Wing shall function as an autonomous body within the overall structure of the Party, of which it shall be an integral part, and subject to the supervisory and disciplinary powers of the Party.
- iii. The constitution, rules and regulations of the Persons Living with Disabilities Wing shall not be in conflict with the Constitution, guidelines and policies of the Party.
- iv. The constitution of the Persons Living with Disabilities Wing shall be subject to the approval of the National Executive Committee of the Party.
- v. The National Leader of the Persons Living with Disabilities shall be the leader of the Persons Living with Disabilities Wing.

13

ARTICLE 13: POWER OF PARTY ORGANS

13.1 National Convention

The final authority of the Party shall rest with the National Convention, which shall have the power to:

- i. Ratify policies and programmes of the Party.
- ii. Elect or remove National Officers of the Party.
- iii. Elect the Presidential Candidate of the Party.
- iv. Receive reports from the National Executive Committee and from any other Committee and or organ of the Party; and take appropriate decisions on the reports and or recommendations.
- v. Amend the Constitution of the Party from time to time as the need may arise.
- vi. Delegate any of its powers to the **National Advisory Council**, National Executive Committee or to any other organ of the Party.
- vii. Take any action as may be conducive to the promotion of the aims and objectives of the

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- Party as laid down in this Constitution.
- viii. Appoint External Auditors to audit the Party's accounts for its consideration.
- ix. Exercise such other powers and authority as are vested in it by this Constitution.
- x. Ratify the minimum rate of annual subscription to be paid by members and the proportion of income from subscriptions to be remitted to the National Secretariat of the Party.

13.2 National Advisory Council

A. Powers

The National Advisory Council shall:

- i. Be the conscience and soul of the Party, and shall represent and demonstrate the highest standard of morality in the Party.
- ii. It shall, when necessary, intervene in all disputes and crises in the Party to ensure its stability at all times.
- iii. Advise on, and when necessary, initiate policies for the guidance of the Party.
- iv. Promote reconciliation, encourage and facilitate the settlement of disputes in an amicable manner among members of the Party.
- v. By decision of a simple majority of its members, convene the National Convention, the National Executive Committee or National Caucus to hold statutory meetings of the Party where they are unable or unwilling to meet.
- vi. Regulate its own proceedings and formulate a Code of Conduct for its members.
- vii. Perform any other functions referred to it by the National Executive Committee and/or National Convention.
- viii. Elect its Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Secretary and other officers as it deems necessary, and formulate its own rules and procedures to regulate its meetings and activities.

- 1. Amended for clarity
- 2. Amended to create a reward system for Party members.

B. Tenure

- i. The National Secretary shall, not later than one month after an elective convention, convene the meeting of the National Advisory Council at which its first leadership, including the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Secretary and other officials that may be deemed necessary, shall be constituted.
- ii. The tenure of the members of the National Advisory Council, other than those specified in article 12.2 (A) (i-iv), shall be four (4) years, subject to renewal for another four (4) years and no more.
- iii. The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, who is a member of the Party, shall serve as Chairman of the National Advisory Council and shall serve in that capacity upon completion of his term as President for the period prescribed in this Constitution.

Provide clear functions, responsibilities, leadership and tenure

13.3 National Executive Committee:

A. The National Executive Committee of the Party shall be the Principal Executive body of the Party and shall perform the following functions:

- i. Summon or convene the National Convention and prepare its agenda.
- ii. Discharge all functions of the National Convention in- between National Conventions.
- iii. Decision of the National Executive Committee shall be binding on all organs and all members of the Party, except the National Convention.
- iv. Consider reports from National, State and Local Government Area/Area Councils Chapters of the Party and take such decisions as are necessary to protect, advance, and consolidate the gains and interest of the Party.
- v. Exercise control and take disciplinary actions on all organs, officers and members of the Party and determine appeals brought before it by any member or organ of the Party.
- vi. Create, elect and appoint any Committee it may deem necessary, desirable or expedient and assign to them such powers and functions as it may deem fit and proper.
- vii. Examine the actions taken or legislation proposed or passed by any Government, Legislative House or Local Government Area/Area Council and determine what further actions the Party should take.
- viii. Secure at all elections the return of as many Party candidates as possible, so as to generally have control of the Legislative and Executive arms of Governments in the Federation, States and Local Government Areas/Area Council.
- ix. Raise adequate funds for the management and sustenance of the Party.
- x. Ratify the type, nature and membership of Standing Committees to be set up by the National Working Committee.
- xi. Approve the nomination of members of standing committees as shall be recommended by the National Working Committee.
- xii. Ensure that the actions and policies of the government at the Federal and State levels are consistent with the Party's manifesto and campaign promises.
- xiii. Conduct due diligence on nominees considered for statutory positions before transmission to the Senate for confirmation.
- xiv. Approve the national budget of the Party.
- xv. Receive quarterly financial report from the National Working Committee on income and expenditure of the Party.
- xvi. Appoint external auditor.

Provide additional responsibilities and functions

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B. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Constitution, the National Executive Committee shall have the power to set up a Caretaker Committee in place of any organ at all levels, except the National Advisory Council and National Convention, where in its opinion there is a compelling situation warranting such action in the overriding interest of the Party.

C. Any such Committee shall have a defined tenure not exceeding twelve (12) months.

13.4 The National Working Committee

The National Working Committee shall be responsible for the Administration of the Party and putting into effect the decisions of the National Executive Committee. To this end, the National Working Committee shall carry out the day-to-day running of the affairs of the Party. It shall in particular:

- i. Prepare the agenda for the National Convention subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee.
- ii. Prepare and submit reports and budgets for consideration of the National Executive Committee.
- iii. Provide financial guidelines for the consideration of the National Convention subject to the ratification of the National Executive Committee.
- iv. Prepare and present quarterly financial report to the National Executive Committee on income and expenditure of the Party.
- v. Propose policies and programmes for the Party, which shall be considered by the National Executive Committee.
- vi. Propose electoral guidelines and regulations governing the conduct of elections to Party offices at all levels, and procedure for selecting Party candidates for elective offices, subject to the provisions of this Constitution, to the National Executive Committee.
- vii. Propose policies and programmes for the Party for consideration by the National Executive Committee.
- viii. Invite such person(s) as it deems necessary, desirable or expedient, to attend meeting(s) and take part in deliberations provided that such invited person(s) shall have no voting right.
- ~~ix.~~ Consider appeals and other issues referred to it by the State Working Committee, and/or emanating from the zones and States of the Federation.
- x. Establish ad-hoc and/or standing committees, appoint members to such committees and empower the committees to function for the smooth administration of the Party.
- xi. Examine the activities, policies, programmes and legislation made by the governments in the Federation, from time to time, in order to determine their alignment with the manifesto and Constitution of the Party, and when necessary, to make recommendations to the National Executive Committee for its action.
- xii. Recommend to the National Executive Committee for its approval, the proportion of income from subscriptions from Wards, Local Government Areas/Area Councils and States that shall be remitted to the National Secretariat.
- ~~xiii.~~ Organise primary elections for the nomination of its Presidential, Governorship, National and State Legislative Assembly candidates.
- xiv. Subject to the approval of the National Executive Committee, the National Working Committee may in special circumstances grant a waiver to a person not otherwise qualified under this Constitution if in its opinion, such a waiver is in the best interest of the Party.
- xv. The National Working Committee shall have the power to create and appoint committees it may deem necessary, desirable or expedient and assign to them such powers and functions as it may deem fit and proper for the discharge of its functions.
- xvi. The National Working Committee shall liaise with governments formed by the Party at all levels with a view to ensuring that members of the Party are accorded priority in appointments into public offices, and shall provide periodic reports in this regard to the National Executive Committee.
- xvii. The National Working Committee shall at the quarterly meetings of the National Executive Committee present quarterly report containing the activities of the Party.

Provide additional responsibilities and functions

13.5 Zonal Executive Committee:

The Zonal Executive Committee shall meet to transact any or all of the following:

- i. Attend to all political and organisational matters affecting the zone.
- ii. Coordinate Party activities at the Zonal level.
- iii. Liaise with the State Executive Committees on ways and means of strengthening the Party within the zone.
- iv. Perform such other advisory and consultative functions as may be directed by the National Working Committee and National Executive Committee.

13.6 Zonal Congress

The Zonal Congress shall exercise the following powers:

- i. Elect officers of the Zonal Executive Committee.
- ii. Approve the budget of the Party on the zone.
- iii. Receive reports of officers of the Party in the zone.
- iv. Delegate any of its powers to the Zonal Executive Committee.

Provide for electing Zonal offices in the zones.

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13.7 State Congress

The State Congress shall exercise the following powers:

- i. approve the budget of the Party in the State,
- ii. elect officers of the State Executive Committee,
- i. attend to all political and organisational matters affecting the District,
- ii. coordinate Party activities at the District level,
- iii. liaise with the State Executive Committee on ways and means of strengthening the Party within the District, and
- iv. perform such other advisory and consultative functions as may be directed by the State Executive Committee.

13.11 Local Government Area Congress

The Local Government Area Congress shall:

- i. elect members of the Local Government Area/Area Council Executive Committee of the Party,
- ii. elect Local Government Party Delegates to the State Congress and the National Convention,
- iii. approve the budgets for the running of the Party at the Local Government Area/Area Council Levels, and
- iv. receive Auditor's Report.

13.12 Local Government Area Executive Committee

The Local Government Area Executive Committee shall:

- i. Attend to issues (political, social and economic) of concern to the Party in the Local Government Area/Area Council.
- ii. Receive reports from the constituent Wards on:
 - a) membership drive,
 - b) fund-raising activities,
 - c) mobilisation of voters, and
 - d) strategies for political campaigns and electoral success.
- iii. Responsible for the distribution and utilization of materials in the Wards.
- iv. Provide strategies for effective communication between the Wards and Local Government Areas/Area Councils.
- v. Implement decisions of the Local Government Area/Area Council Congresses and other organs of the Party.
- vi. Regulate the employment of Secretariat staff of the Party in the Local Government Area/Area Council.

13.13 Ward Congress:

The Ward Congress shall:

- i. approve the budget for the Ward,
- ii. elect members of the Ward Executive Committee,
- iii. elect Ward delegates to the Local Government Area/Area Council and State Party Congress,
- iv. receive reports from the officers of the Ward, and
- v. undertake any other business in the interest of the Party within the Ward.

13.14 Ward Executive Committee:

The Ward Executive Committee shall:

- i. attend to the day-to-day administration of the Party at the Ward level,
- ii. raise funds for the day-to-day administration of the Party at the Ward level,
- iii. engage in membership drive,
- iv. provide strategies for political campaign,
- v. engage in the Mobilisation of voters,
- vi. implement decisions of Ward Congresses and other organs of the Party, and
- vii. perform such other functions as may be in the interest of the Party.

13.15 Polling Unit Committee

- members of the Party,
- iv. current Local Government Council/Area Council Chairmanship and Deputy Chairmanship Candidates of the Party,
 - v. Local Government Area/Area Council Party Secretary,
 - vi. Local Government Area/Area Council Councillors, who are members of the Party,
 - vii. Local Government Area/Area Council Party Treasurer,
 - viii. all Ward Party Chairmen,
 - ix. Local Government Area/Area Council Women Leader,
 - x. Local Government Area/Area Council Youth Leader,
 - xi. Local Government Area/Area Council Leader of Persons Living with Disabilities,
 - xii. such other members, in equal proportion of men and women, as may be co-opted or appointed by the Local Government Area/Area Council Executive Committee of the Party, and
 - xiii. all statutory members of the State Caucus from the Local Government Area/Area Council.

Expand composition to include Women, Youth and Persons Living with Disabilities

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12.16 Ward Congress

The Ward Congress shall comprise all officers and registered members of the Party in the Ward, **who are financially up to date**. The Ward Congress shall be summoned by the Ward Executive Committee from time to time as may be required.

12.17 Ward Executive Committee

There shall be for each Ward Chapter of the Party a Ward Executive Committee consisting of:

- i. the Ward Chairman,
- ii. the Ward Vice Chairman (**who shall be a woman**),
- iii. the Ward Secretary,
- iv. the Ward Assistant Secretary,
- v. the Ward Treasurer (**who shall be a woman**),
- vi. the Ward Assistant Treasurer,
- vii. the Ward Financial Secretary,
- viii. the Ward Assistant Financial Secretary,
- ix. the Ward Organising Secretary,
- x. the Ward Assistant Organising Secretary,
- xi. the Ward Publicity Secretary,
- xii. the Ward Assistant Publicity Secretary,
- xiii. the Ward Welfare Secretary (**who shall be a woman**),
- xiv. the Ward Assistant Welfare Secretary,
- xv. the Ward Woman Leader,
- xvi. the Ward Assistant Woman Leader,
- xvii. the Ward Youth Leader,
- xviii. the Ward Assistant Youth Leader (**who shall be a woman where the Ward Youth Leader is a man**),
- xix. the **Ward Leader of Persons Living with Disabilities**,
- xx. the **Ward assistant Leader of Persons Living with Disabilities (who shall be a woman where the Ward Leader of Persons Living with Disabilities is a man)**,
- xxi. the Ward Auditor,
- xxii. the Ward Assistant Auditor (**who shall be a woman**),
- xxiii. the Councillor of the Ward, who is a member of the Party,
- xxiv. four (4) ex-officio members elected at Ward Congress (**two of whom shall be women**), and
- xxv. **all members of the National, Zonal, District and Local Government Executive Committees from the Ward.**

12.18 Polling Unit Committee

The Polling Unit Committee shall:

- i. be responsible for ensuring the success of the Party at all elections, and
- ii. carry out such assignments as may be given by the Ward Executive Committee.

Provide a great platform for Women, Youth and Persons Living with Disabilities

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ARTICLE 14: POWERS OF NATIONAL OFFICERS

14.1 National Chairman

The National Chairman shall:

- i. Preside over the meetings of the National Executive Committee and the National Working Committee of the Party.
- ii. Provide **efficient** and effective leadership to the Party.
- iii. Uphold the Constitution and defend the name, policies and programmes of the Party.
- iv. Be a signatory to the accounts of the Party.
- v. Direct the due execution of the programmes of the Party.
- vi. Give lawful directives to all officers, organs, and members of the Party at all levels.
- vii. Have a casting vote in the event of a tie in the meetings of the Party over which he presides.
- viii. Ensure the implementation of the directives of all superior organs of the Party, namely the National Convention, the Board of Trustees, the National Executive Committee, the National Working Committee and the National Caucus.
- ix. Perform such other functions as may be assigned to him from time to time by the National Convention, **National Advisory Council**, National Executive Committee and/or the National Working Committee.
- x. **The National Chairman shall preside over all statutory meetings of the Party at the National level, except the meetings of the National Advisory Council.**

For Clarity

14.2 Deputy National Chairmen, North/South

The Deputy National Chairmen shall:

- i. assist the National Chairman in the discharge of his duties,
- ii. perform such functions as may be assigned to him, from time to time by the National Executive Committee and National Working Committee,
- iii. shall act as the National Chairman in the absence of the National Chairman from his Zone, and
- iv. **provide supervisory role within the zone.**

14.3 National Secretary

The National Secretary shall:

- i. **Be the head of the National Secretariat, and** supervise its day-to-day activities.
- ii. **Issue** notices of meetings of the National Convention, National Executive Committee and National Working Committee of the Party.
- iii. **Maintain** all records and books of proceedings of the National Convention, National Executive Committee and National Working Committee of the Party.
- iv. Render a written annual report of the activities of the Party to the National Executive Committee.
- v. Carry out any other duty as may be assigned to him from time to time by the National Convention, **National Advisory Council**, National Executive Committee, National Working Committee, and National Chairman.
- vi. Be a co-signatory to the Party's Account(s).
- vii. Serve as the Secretary of all statutory meetings of the Party.

14.4 Deputy National Secretary

The Deputy National Secretary shall:

- i. **assist and deputise** the National Secretary,
- ii. assist the National Secretary in the discharge of his duties, and
- iii. perform such functions as may be assigned to him from time to time by the National Secretary.

14.5 National Vice Chairman (Zonal Chairman)

The National Vice Chairman shall:

- i. **coordinate the activities of the Party in the geo-political zone, and**
- ii. shall perform such functions as may be assigned to him from time to time by the National Executive Committee and National Working Committee.

14.6 National Treasurer

The National Treasurer shall:

- i. receive and promptly, not later than 24 hours, pay into the Party's accounts all monies received for and on behalf of the Party,
- ii. ensure prudent management of Party funds,
- iii. prepare and submit **quarterly and** yearly statements of account to the National Executive Committee, **and**
- iv. be a signatory to the accounts of the Party.

14.7 Deputy National Treasurer

The Deputy National Treasurer shall:

- i. assist and deputise the National Treasurer, **and**
- ii. perform such functions as may be assigned to him from time to time by the National Treasurer.

14.8 National Financial Secretary

The National Financial Secretary shall:

- i. collect all monies due to the Party and pay such monies to the National Treasurer not later than 24 hours after the collection,
- ii. prepare and submit proposals for raising Party funds for the consideration of the National Working Committee,
- iii. ensure that proper account and records are kept and cause such books to be produced for inspection as may be required, and
- iv. be **a** co-signatory to the accounts of the Party.

14.9 Deputy National Financial Secretary

The Deputy National Financial Secretary shall:

- i. assist and deputise the National Financial Secretary, **and**
- ii. perform such functions as may be assigned to him from time to time by the National Financial Secretary.

14.10 National Publicity Secretary

The National Publicity Secretary shall:

- i. **be the official spokesperson of the Party,**
- ii. **be** responsible for dissemination of **the** Party's information **and** promotional activities of the Party, **and**
- iii. perform such functions as may be assigned to him from time to time by the **National Advisory Council**, National Executive Committee and National Working Committee.

14.11 Deputy National Publicity Secretary

The Deputy National Publicity Secretary shall:

- i. assist and deputise the National Publicity Secretary, **and**
- ii. perform such functions as may be assigned to him from time to time by the National Publicity Secretary.

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14.12 National Welfare Secretary

The National Welfare Secretary shall:

- i. be responsible for protocols and logistics of the Party,
- ii. promote the welfare of the members of the Party generally, **and**
- iii. perform such functions as may be assigned to him from time to time by the National Executive Committee and National Working Committee.

14.13 Deputy National Welfare Secretary

The Deputy National Welfare Secretary shall:

- i. assist and deputise the National Welfare Secretary, **and**
- ii. perform such functions as may be assigned to him from time to time by the National Welfare Secretary.

14.14 National Organising Secretary

The National Organising Secretary shall:

- i. initiate programmes for the mobilisation of Party members, devise appropriate strategies for elections and co-ordinate all field activities for the Party,
- ii. make periodic reports on the state of mobilisation of the Party to the National Working Committee, **and**
- iii. perform such functions as may be assigned to him from time to time by the National Executive Committee and National Working Committee.

14.15 Deputy National Organising Secretary

The Deputy National Organising Secretary shall:

- i. assist and deputise the National Organising Secretary, **and**
- ii. perform such functions as may be assigned to him from time to time by the National Organising Secretary.

14.16 National Auditor

The National Auditor shall:

- i. audit the books of account of the Party annually and report accordingly to the National Working Committee which shall in turn transmit same to the National Executive Committee.
- ii. in conjunction with the External Auditors, present the audited accounts of the Party to the National Convention annually, **and**
- iii. from time to time, examine the books of accounts of the Party.

14.17 Deputy National Auditor

The Deputy National Auditor shall:

- i. assist and deputise the National Auditor, **and**
- ii. perform such functions as may be assigned to him from time to time by the National Auditor.

14.18 National Legal Adviser

The National Legal Adviser shall:

- i. Be qualified to practice in Nigeria as a Legal Practitioner **for not less than ten (10) years.**
- ii. Advise **and guide** the Party on all legal matters.
- iii. **Attend to** litigations and legal defence on behalf of the Party **at all levels**, including its organs, officials and assets.
- iv. **Coordinate the activities of State, Federal Capital Territory and Zonal Legal Advisers on legal matters affecting the Party at all levels including, but not limited to, the terms of engagement of external solicitors.**
- v. **Be responsible for engaging external retainers, where desirable, and counsel to handle all litigations involving the Party at all levels, with the approval of the National Working Committee.**
- vi. **Ensure that the Party, in all its activities, is guided by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, statutory laws, Party Constitution and guidelines.**
- vii. **Ensure that the credentials of all aspirants seeking elective offices on the platform of the Party are submitted to the Legal Department for vetting and issuance of advisories to the Screening Committees of the Party.**
- viii. Give legal opinion on all laws, regulations and the Constitution of the Party in the event of ambiguities.
- ix. Shall be the Legal Adviser to the **National Advisory Council.**

14.19 Deputy National Legal Adviser

The Deputy National Legal Adviser shall:

- i. be qualified to practice in Nigeria as a Legal Practitioner **for not less than ten (10) years,**
- ii. assist and deputise the National Legal Adviser, **and**
- iii. perform such functions as may be assigned to him from time to time by the National Legal Adviser.

14.20 National Woman Leader

The National Woman Leader shall:

- i. be responsible for the Mobilisation of women,
- ii. **advise on strategies for the Mobilisation of women for the Party,**
- iii. initiate and implement strategic programmes that will endear the Party to Nigerian women in consultation with the Zonal and State Women Leaders as approved by the Party, **and**
- iv. perform such functions as may be assigned to her from time to time by the National Executive Committee and National Working Committee.

Provide for harmony and coordination between National and State Legal Officers

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		<p>14.21 Deputy National Woman Leader The Deputy National Woman Leader shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. assist and deputise the National Woman Leader, and ii. perform such functions as may be assigned to her from time to time by the National Women Leader. <p>14.22 National Youth Leader. The National Youth Leader shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Be responsible for Mobilisation of the Youth for the attainment of Party objectives. ii. Advise on strategies for the Mobilisation of the Youth for the Party. iii. Initiate and implement strategic programmes that would endear the Party to Nigerian Youth in consultation with the Zonal and State Youth Leaders as approved by the Party. iv. Perform such functions as may be assigned to him from time to time by the National Executive Committee and National Working Committee. v. National Youth Leader shall be a person as defined by this Constitution. <p>14.23 National Youth Leader The Deputy National Youth Leader shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. assist and deputise the National Youth Leader, and ii. perform such functions as may be assigned to him from time to time by the National Youth Leader. <p>14.24 National Leader of Persons Living with Disabilities The National Leader of Persons Living with Disabilities shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. serve as a link between the Party and people with special needs, and ii. carry out any other duty as may be assigned to him by the Party's National Executive Committee. <p>14.25 Deputy National Leader of Persons Living with Disabilities The Deputy National Leader of Persons Living with Disabilities shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. assist and deputise the Leader of Persons Living with Disabilities, and ii. perform such functions as may be assigned to him from time to time by the National Leader of Persons Living with Disabilities. 	
15		<p>ARTICLE 15: OTHER OFFICERS</p> <p>15.1 Other Elected National Officers Other elected National Officers of the National Executive Committee shall perform such functions as may be assigned to them from time to time by the National Working Committee.</p> <p>15.2 Officers at Other Levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, all other officers at the Zonal, State, Local Government Area/Area Council and Ward levels shall have the same powers and functions as those of the National Officers, provided that the exercise of such powers and functions shall not be in conflict with powers of officers of the National Working Committee and National Executive Committee. ii. For the avoidance of doubt, the exercise of the powers and functions of Legal Advisers at the lower organs shall be subject to the overriding authority and direction of the National Legal Adviser. 	Amended for harmony in administration
16		<p>ARTICLE 16: PARTY ADMINISTRATION</p> <p>16.1 Elective Officers Benefits and entitlements of elective officers of the Party, excluding officers below the State level, shall be determined by the National Working Committee and approved by the National Executive Committee.</p> <p>16.2 Establishment Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. There shall be an Establishment Committee with responsibility for the appointment, promotion and discipline of the administrative, technical and professional staff of the Party under the supervision and direction of the National Secretary. ii. The conditions and scheme of service of the administrative, technical and professional staff shall be determined by the National Working Committee, subject to the approval of the National Executive Committee. iii. The composition of the Establishment Committee shall be determined by the National Working Committee subject to the approval of the National Executive Committee. <p>A. The day-to-day administration of the Party shall be discharged by Directorates to be headed by officials, who shall be responsible to the National Secretary of the Party as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The Directorate of Organisation shall be headed by a Director and shall be responsible for the organisation of the Party's activities at all levels. ii. The Directorate of Publicity shall be headed by a Director who shall be responsible for a positive image of the Party at all levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide for benefits of officers 2. Amended for clarity, elegance, grammar and administration of the Party.

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- iii. The Directorate of Administration shall be headed by a Director who shall attend to personnel and other administrative matters.
- iv. The Directorate of Finance shall be headed by a Director who shall attend to all financial matters.
- v. The Directorate of Research, Planning and Strategy shall be headed by a Director who shall deal with research, planning, strategy and intelligence matters.
- vi. The Directorate of Social Welfare shall be headed by a Director who shall be responsible for the Welfare of the members of the Party.
- vii. The Directorate of Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) shall be headed by a Director, who shall be responsible for advising the Party on ICT matters, and managing the ICT infrastructure of the Party.
- viii. The Directorate of Legal Services shall be headed by a Director, who shall be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Directorate.
- ix. All officials of Directorates shall be appointed by the appropriate Executive Committee and reflecting federal character.
- x. The salaries and other conditions of service of officials shall be decided by the appropriate
- iii. receive reports of the officers of the Party,
- iv. receive and consider the Auditors Report, and
- v. may delegate any of its powers to the State Executive Committee or State Working Committee.

Provide additional functions NWC

13.8 State Executive Committee

The State Executive Committee shall:

- i. Administer the Party in the State and implement the decisions of the State Congress or directives from the National Executive Committee and the National Convention.
- ii. Prepare its annual budget for approval by the State Congress.
- iii. Prepare the agenda of the State Congress.
- iv. Consider Reports from Local Government Area Chapters of the Party and take such decisions that are necessary to protect, advance and consolidate the gains and interest of the Party within the State.
- v. Create or appoint such Committee(s) as it may deem necessary, desirable or expedient and assign to them such powers and functions as it may deem fit and proper, provided that the powers and functions of such Committee(s) shall not conflict with any Committee(s) set up by the National Executive Committee or the National Working Committee.
- ~~vi.~~ Secure at all elections the return of as many Party Candidates as possible so as to generally have control of the Legislative and Executive arms of Government.
- vii. Raise funds for the management and sustenance of the Party.

13.9 State Working Committee

The State Working Committee shall be responsible for the Administration of the Party and putting into effect the decisions of the State Executive Committee. To that end, the State Working Committee shall carry out the day-to-day running of the affairs of the Party. It shall:

- i. Prepare the agenda for the State Congress subject to approval by the State Executive Committee.
- ii. Prepare and submit reports and budgets for consideration of the State Congress subject to the approval of the State Executive Committee.
- iii. Prepare and present quarterly financial report of income and expenditure of the Party to the State Executive Committee.
- iv. Deal with appeals and other issues referred to it by the Local Government Area Working Committee and/or from the Senatorial Districts and Wards of the State.
- v. Invite such person(s) as it deems necessary, desirable or expedient, to attend meeting(s) and take part in deliberations provided that such invited person(s) shall have no voting right.
- vi. Deal with any other matters referred to it by the State Executive Committee or the State Congress.
- vii. Establish ad-hoc and/or standing committees of the Party and appoint members to such Committees within the State, provided that such committees shall not conflict with the powers and functions of any Committee set up by the National Executive Committee and the National Working Committee.
- viii. Examine the activities, policies, legislation and programmes made and pursued by the Local Government Areas of the State and Area Councils from time to time, in order to determine whether or not they are in accordance with the manifesto and the Constitution of Party, and make appropriate recommendations to the State Executive Committee.
- ~~ix.~~ Organise primary elections for the nomination of Local Government Area Chairmanship, Vice Chairmanship candidates and Councillors for election into the Local Government Council/Area Council, in accordance with guidelines approved by the National Working Committee, under the supervision of the State Working Committee.

13.10 Senatorial District Committee:

The Senatorial District Committee shall meet to transact any or all of the following:

- Executive Committee, which shall have powers to employ and discipline any official.
- xi. The National Working Committee may establish such other directorates as it may deem fit.

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17	<p>ARTICEL 17: TENURE OF OFFICE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Except as otherwise provided in this Constitution, all officers of the Party elected or appointed into the Party's organs shall serve in such organs for a period of four (4) years and shall be eligible for re-election or re-appointment for another period of four (4) years only, provided that an Officer elected or appointed to fill a vacancy arising from death, resignation or otherwise shall notwithstanding be eligible for election to the same Office for two terms. ii. No member shall serve in the same office for more than eight (8) years continuously, except a person who first came to the office by filling a vacancy or whose tenure was truncated as a result of decision of an organ of the Party authorised to do so and not on grounds of disciplinary action. iii. No member can be an Officer at the National and State levels of the Party concurrently, other than being an ex-officio member of that organ. iv. Except in a caretaker capacity, no officer in any organ of the Party shall hold executive or legislative position or office in government concurrently. v. Subject to ratification by the National Convention or Congress, an officer shall be relieved of his post at any time if a vote of "No Confidence" is passed on him by two-thirds of members of the relevant Party organ. vi. Where a vote of "No Confidence" has been passed on an Officer, the relevant Party organ shall appoint another person to act in his place pending ratification by the National Convention or Congress, as the case may be. 	<p>Amended for clarity and elegance</p>
18	<p>ARTICLE 18: STANDING AND AD-HOC COMMITTEES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The National Executive Committee shall have power to set up standing committee(s) and ad-hoc committees. ii. Notwithstanding the provision of sub-article (i) of this article, the Party shall have the following standing committee(s) and ad-hoc committee(s), which membership shall be proposed by the National Working Committee and approved by the National Executive Committee: <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Standing Committees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Establishment Committee b) Finance Committee c) Publicity Committee d) Intergovernmental Committee e) Conflict and Reconciliation Committee <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Ad-hoc Committee(s) Screening Committees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. The State, Local Government Area and Ward Executive Committees may set up standing and ad-hoc committee(s) at the State, Local Government Area and Ward levels of the Party. iv. Where the National Executive Committee has set up a standing or ad-hoc committee and it has assumed jurisdiction on any issue, no organ of the Party shall deliberate upon and or set up a similar or parallel committee. 	<p>Amended to broaden the scope of Committees</p>
19	<p>ARTICLE 19: FUNCTIONS AND COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING AND AD-HOC COMMITTEES</p> <p>19.1 Establishment Committee The Establishment Committee shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Be responsible for the appointment, promotion and discipline of administrative, technical and professional staff of the Secretariat. ii. Provide for code of conduct, conditions and scheme of service of the staff described in (ii) above for consideration of the National Working Committee and approval of the National Executive Committee. iii. Be headed by the National Secretary of the Party, and constituted by other members to be determined by the National Working Committee and approved by the National Executive Committee. <p>19.2 Finance Committee The Finance Committee shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Advise the Party on ways and means of generating funds and investing same for the Party, in accordance with relevant provisions of this Constitution and other financial regulations of the Party. ii. Be headed by the National Treasurer, and shall comprise a minimum of seven (7) members, including the National Financial Secretary, to be nominated by the National Working Committee and approved by the National Executive Committee. <p>19.3 Publicity Committee The Publicity Committee shall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Advise the Party on matters of information, communication, publication, public relations, mass media and community affairs. ii. Be headed by the National Publicity Secretary and shall comprise seven (7) members to be nominated by the National Working Committee and approved by the National Executive Committee. 	<p>Amended for clarity, Elegance and new system in administration</p>

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19.4 Intergovernmental Committee

The Intergovernmental Committee shall:

- i. Be responsible for liaising with the executive and legislative branches of government, and make periodic reports to the National or State Working Committee, as the case may be, when necessary.
- ii. Comprise of eminent Party members with sufficient spread across the geo-political zones of the country.

Provide for coordination between Party and Government

19.5 Conflict and Reconciliation Committee

The Conflict and Reconciliation Committee shall:

- i. Be responsible for resolving conflicts, as well as reconciling aggrieved members of the Party and, in appropriate situations, reconciling conflicts among organs of the Party.
- ii. The membership of the Conflict and Reconciliation Committee shall be determined, from time to time, by the National Working Committee from among eminent members of the Party.

Provide conflict resolution system

19.6 Screening Committees

The Screening Committees shall:

- i. Be responsible for screening of Party aspirants for nomination to the following offices, having received the various reports of the Legal Department:
 - a) President,
 - b) Vice President,
 - c) Governors,
 - d) Deputy Governors,
 - e) Members of the National and State Houses of Assembly,
 - f) National Officers of the Party.
 - g) Zonal and State Officers of the Party.
- ii. The list of candidates elected at the Party primary election, Congresses and Conventions for the offices mentioned in (i) above shall be forwarded, after the disposal of appeals, to the National Working Committee of the Party for ratification/confirmation as candidates for national/general elections or elected officers of the Party, whichever is applicable.
- iii. Members of the Committees shall not be eligible to contest for any political/elective positions in the same election for which they are serving as members.
- iv. Membership of the Screening Committees shall be as recommended by the National Working Committee with the approval of the National Executive Committee.

20

ARTICLE 20:

PARTY ELECTIONS AND NOMINATIONS

20.1 Party Elections

Unless otherwise provided for in this Constitution:

- i. All offices in the organs of the Party under this Constitution shall be filled by democratically conducted elections at the respective National Convention and Congresses subject, where possible, to consensus.
- ii. Provided that where a candidate has emerged by consensus for an elective position, a vote of "yes" or "no" by ballot or voice shall be called.
- iii. Unless otherwise provided for, eligibility to contest for any political office on the platform of the Party shall require a minimum period of three (3) months membership.

20.2 Conduct of Primaries for Nomination

- i. Nomination of Candidates for Councillorship shall be by direct primary election conducted at the Ward level. For the purpose of this primary election, Party members in every Ward shall vote by open-secret ballot for the candidates of their choice where there is no consensus.
- ii. Provided that where a candidate has emerged by consensus for an elective position, a vote of "yes" or "no" shall be called.

20.3 Nomination of Candidates:

Nomination of candidates for the following offices shall be through direct or indirect primary election to be conducted at the appropriate level, subject to the direction and supervision of the National Working Committee:

- a) President,
- b) Governor,
- c) Senate,
- d) House of Representatives,
- e) House of Assembly, and
- f) Local Government Council/Area Council,

Amended for clarity

20.4 Procedure for Nomination of Candidates:

- i. Direct primaries shall be by Party members in every Ward by open-secret ballot for the candidate of their choice.

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	<p>ii. Indirect primaries for the purpose of nominating a candidate for the office of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) President shall be at the National Convention by the members constituting the National Convention. b) Governor shall be by the state congress at the designated venue for that purpose. c) Senator shall be by the Local Government Congresses constituting the Senatorial District at the designated venue for that purpose. d) Member of the House of Representatives shall be by the Local Government Congresses constituting the Federal Constituency at the designated venue for that purpose. e) Member of House of Assembly shall be by the Ward Congresses constituting the State Constituency at the designated venue for that purpose. f) Local Government Council/Area Council Chairman shall be by the Ward Congresses constituting the Local Government/Area Council at the designated venue for that purpose. <p>iii. At all Congresses and the Convention, contestants with the highest number of votes shall be announced as the winners accordingly at the designated venue.</p> <p>iv. Without prejudice to other provisions of this Article, the National Working Committee shall, subject to the approval of the National Executive Committee, make Rules and Regulations for the conduct of Party primaries in accordance with the extant Electoral Act (as amended). All such Rules, Regulations and Guidelines shall take into consideration and uphold the principle of Federal Character, gender balance, geo-political spread and rotation of offices, to as much as possible ensure balance within the constituency covered.</p>		
21	<p>ARTICLE 21: DISCIPLINE OF PARTY MEMBERS</p> <p>21.1 Power to Discipline</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Subject to the provisions of this article and the right to fair hearing, the Party shall have power to discipline members of the Party. ii. The Power shall be exercised on behalf of the Party by the respective Executive Committee in line with the provisions hereunder. <p>21.2 Offences Offences against the Party shall include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. A breach of any provision of this Constitution. ii. Anti-Party activities or any conduct, which is likely to embarrass or have adverse effect on the Party or bring the Party into hatred, contempt, ridicule or disrepute. iii. Disobedience or negligence in carrying out lawful directives of the Party. iv. Any act of impersonation of the Party Officers or maintaining unauthorised secretariat of the Party at all levels. v. Giving wrong information to any Organ of the Party or unauthorised publicity of a Party dispute without exhausting all avenues for settlement or redress within the Party. vi. Factionalisation or creating parallel Party organs at any level. vii. Flouting the rules, regulations and decisions of the Party. viii. Engaging in dishonest practices, thuggery, continuously being absent from meetings to which he/she is invited without reasonable cause; carrying out anti-Party or other activities which tend to disrupt the peaceful, lawful and efficient organisation of the Party or which are inconsistent with the aims and objectives of the Party. ix. Carrying arms, offensive weapons or missile at a political rally or procession, Party meetings, Party Officers or voting centres other than in pursuance of a lawful duty. x. Any other conduct or act prohibited by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Electoral Act, Electoral Guidelines or which by the Rules and Regulations of the Party, constitutes an offence. xi. Filing an action in a Court of Law against the Party or any of its Officers on the matters relating to the discharge of the duties of the Party without first exhausting all avenues for redress provided for in this Constitution. xii. In cases of alteration of Delegate lists, falsification of nomination results, and or tampering with the processes of internal democracy of the Party, the offender shall be liable to expulsion from the Party and be prosecuted. <p>21.3 Disciplinary Procedure The procedure for the hearing and determination of complaints or allegations are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. A complaint by any member of the Party against a Public Office holder, elected or appointed, or another member or against a Party organ or officer of the Party shall be submitted to the Executive Committee of that Party at all levels concerned which shall not later than seven (7) days of the receipt of the complaint, appoint a fact-finding or Disciplinary Committee to examine the matter. ii. The Executive Committee concerned shall not debate or discuss the complaint or allegation before sending it to the or fact-finding Committee which shall hear, determine and cause its decision to be transmitted to the relevant Executive Committees of the Party concerned. iii. The Executive Committee concerned, upon receipt of the fact finding report, shall transfer the case to this Disciplinary Committee within fourteen (14) days to hear and determine the allegation. iv. The Executive Committee of the Party at the level where a complaint or allegation is made shall within twenty-one (21) days, upon receipt of the report of the Disciplinary Committee, either reject or approve. 	<p>Amended for clarity.</p> <p>Amended to strengthen Party discipline.</p> <p>Amended for clarity and fair process</p>	

- v. Where either the complainant or the Party against whom a complaint is made, makes out a *prima facie* case of bias, intimidation or undue influence or likelihood of same by the Executive Committee seized with original jurisdiction to hear and determine such a matter, or a member thereof; or where the complaint is against a Party organ at that level, making it impracticable to appoint a fact-finding committee:
 - a) Such complaint shall be transferred to the next higher organ seized with appellate jurisdiction to hear and determine such matters.
 - b) In the case of allegation against an officer at any level, such officer shall not participate in the appointment of a fact-finding committee.
- vi. For the purpose of article 21 of this Constitution:
 - a) The Ward Executive shall be the adjudicatory body of first instance over complaint and or allegation from the Polling Unit level.
 - b) The Local Government Area Executive Committee shall be the adjudicatory body of first instance over complaints or allegations from the Ward level.
 - c) The State Executive Committee shall be the adjudicatory body of first instance over complaints or allegations from the Local Government Area/Area Council level.
 - d) The Zonal Committee shall be the adjudicatory body of first instance over complaints or allegations from the State Chapter in the zone.
 - e) The National Executive Committee shall be the adjudicatory body over complaints and allegations from the zones.

21.4 Appeals

The right of appeal of an aggrieved member of the Party is hereby guaranteed.

The procedure for appeals shall be as follows:

- i. Where a member is not satisfied with the decision of any of the adjudicatory organs of the Party, he shall have the right to appeal within **seven** (7) days of the decision to the immediate appellate body in the Party as prescribed in this Constitution.
- ii. An appeal shall be determined by the appropriate appellate body within **fourteen** (14) days from the date of receipt of the appeal by the appellate body concerned.
- iii. Where a decision or action taken by an Organ of the Party is appealed against, the decision or action shall remain in force and binding until the appeal has been determined. **However, the appellate body may, in the interest of justice, stay the execution of such decision or action pending the determination of the appeal.**
- iv. An appeal from the decision of the Ward Executive Committee, on a complaint originating from the Ward shall lie to the Local Government Area Executive Committee and thereafter to the **State Executive Committee which decision shall be binding and thereafter sequentially lie up to the National Working Committee.**
- v. An appeal from the decision of the Ward Executive Committee, as an adjudicatory body of first instance, on a complaint originating from the Ward shall lie to the Local Government Area Executive Committee and thereafter to the State Executive Committee **which decision shall be binding and thereafter sequentially lie up to the National Working Committee.**
- vi. An appeal from the decision of the Local Government Area Executive Committee on a complaint originating from the Local Government Area Chapter shall lie to the State Executive Committee and thereafter to the Zonal Executive Committee **which decision shall be binding and thereafter lie to the National Working Committee.**
- vii. An appeal from the decision of the State Executive Committee, as an adjudicatory body of first instance; on a complaint originating from the Local Government Area Chapter shall lie to the Zonal Executive Committee **which decision shall be binding and thereafter sequentially lie up to the National Working Committee.**
- viii. An appeal from the decision of the State Executive Committee on a complaint originating from the State shall lie to the Zonal Executive Committee and thereafter to the **National Working Committee** which shall be binding on the Parties.
- ix. An appeal from the decision of the Zonal Executive Committee, as an adjudicatory body of first instance, on a complaint originating from the State Chapter shall lie to the **National Working Committee** and thereafter to the **National Executive Committee** which decision shall be binding on the Parties.
- x. An appeal from the decision of the National Executive Committee on a complaint originating at the National level shall lie to the **National Convention.**

21.5 Punishment of Erring Members:

- i. The Party shall have power to impose the following sanctions on members in accordance with the nature and gravity of the offence:
 - a) reprimand,
 - b) censure,
 - c) fine,
 - d) debarment from holding Party office,
 - e) removal from Party office,

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> f) suspension from the Party, g) expulsion from the Party, h) debarment from contesting office on the Party's platform, and i) in appropriate circumstances, the Party shall cause the prosecution of the member or erstwhile member of the Party concerned. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Where it is proposed to expel a member of the Executive Committee, political office holder, or a member of a legislative house from membership of the Party, such a proposal shall be submitted to the National Executive Committee, which decision shall be final. iii. A decision to expel a member of the Party taken or confirmed by the National Executive Committee shall be final. iv. The National Executive Committee shall on receipt of the report of the fact-finding committee make a decision on the matter within fourteen (14) days. v. Any member who files an action in court of law against the Party or any of its officers on any matter or matters relating to the discharge of the duties of the Party without first exhausting the avenues for redress provided for in this Constitution shall automatically stand expelled from the Party on filing such action and no appeal against expulsion as stipulated in this Clause shall be entertained until the withdrawal of the action from Court by the member. vi. Each organ of the Party shall have power to remove a Party officer from office for failing to discharge his/her responsibilities, neglect and dereliction of duty or misconduct in office through a vote of no confidence passed against such officer by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, of the appropriate organ, subject to such officer's right to fair hearing. vii. Nothing in this Article shall prevent the National Working Committee from suspending a member of the Party against whom disciplinary proceedings are pending before any organ of the Party, with respect to offences contained in this Constitution, where the circumstances are cogent and compelling; provided that such suspension shall not exceed a cumulative period of twelve (12) months. viii. Notwithstanding the provisions of this Constitution, relating to appeals, the National Executive Committee may, at any stage, review any disciplinary action taken at a lower level against any of its members and its direction shall be final. 	<p>1. Provide NWC's power to impose suspension in disciplinary process</p> <p>2. Provide for power of NEC to review Disciplinary actions</p>
22	<p>ARTICLE 22: PARTY FINANCE</p> <p>A. The Party shall derive funds from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. membership dues, payable on or before 31st March of each year, ii. subscription fees and levies on members, iii. proceeds from investments, iv. subventions, donations, and fund raising, v. gifts and grants, vi. borrowing as approved by the National Executive Committee, and vii. any other lawful means. <p>B. The National Working Committee shall, at the beginning of each year, determine the formula for the distribution of Party funds among the various levels of the Party, subject to the approval of the National Executive Committee.</p>	<p>Amended for fair distribution of Party funds</p>
23	<p>ARTICLE 23: BANK ACCOUNTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The Party shall maintain bank accounts. ii. The Executive Committee at each level of the Party shall decide the Banks for such Accounts. iii. The following Officers of the Party shall be joint signatories to the Party's Bank Accounts and other financial transactions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the Chairman, b) the Secretary, c) the Treasurer, and d) the Financial Secretary. iv. Financial instruments shall be signed by the Chairman and any two of the other three signatories. 	<p>Amended for clarity</p>
24	<p>ARTICLE 24: AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS</p> <p>The Executive Committee at State and National levels shall appoint a competent firm of external auditors to audit the accounts of the Party annually, and present the reports of the audited accounts at their respective Congresses.</p>	<p>Amended for clarity</p>

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25

**ARTICLE 25:
MEETINGS**

25.1 National Convention

The National Convention of the Party shall be held once **every** two (2) years at a date, venue and time to be recommended by the National Working Committee and approved by the National Executive Committee, subject to the **issuance** of the statutory notices to the Independent National Electoral Commission and at least fourteen (14) days notice given to members eligible to attend.

- i. Without prejudice to **the foregoing**, the National Executive Committee may summon an emergency National Convention at any time, provided at least seven (7) days notice of the meeting shall be given to all members eligible to attend.
- ii. The quorum for the meeting of the National Convention shall be one-third of its membership.
- iii. The provisions regulating the meetings of the National Convention shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to State Congresses, Local Government Area/Area Council Congresses and Ward Congresses.

25.2 National Executive Committee

- i. The National Executive Committee shall meet every quarter and or at any time decided by the **National Working Committee** or at the request made in writing by **one-third** of the members of the National Executive Committee, provided that not less than fourteen (14) days notice is given for the meeting.
- ii. Without prejudice to **the provisions of sub-article (i) above**, the National Working Committee may summon an emergency National Executive Committee meeting at any time, provided that at least three (3) days notice of the meeting shall be given to all **persons** entitled to attend.
- iii. Decisions at the meeting of the National Executive Committee shall be by simple majority of members present and voting.
- iv. Quorum for meetings of the National Executive Committee shall be one-third of its membership.
- v. The provisions regulating the meetings of the National Executive Committee shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to Zonal **Executive** Committee, State Executive Committee, Senatorial District Executive Committee, Local Government Area/Area Council Executive Committee and Ward Executive Committee.

25.3 National Working Committee

- i. The National Working Committee shall meet at least once every month.
- ii. **The National Chairman may convene a meeting of the National Working Committee at any time, provided notice is given to the members.**
- iii. Without prejudice to the provisions of **sub-article (i) above**, the meeting of the National Working Committee may be summoned on a request made in writing by **one-third** of members of the National Working Committee at any time, provided that at least forty-eight (48) hours notice of the meeting shall be given to all those entitled to attend.
- iv. Decisions at the meetings of the National Working Committee shall be by simple majority of members present and voting.
- v. The quorum for the meetings of the National Working Committee shall be one-third of its membership.
- vi. The provisions in **this sub-article**, shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the State Working Committee and Local Government Area/Area Council Working Committee.

25.4 Zonal Executive Committee

- i. The Zonal **Executive** Committee shall meet at least once every quarter.
- ii. A special or emergency meeting of the Zonal **Executive** Committee shall be held as and when necessary.
- iii. Decisions at the meetings of the Zonal **Executive** Committee shall be by simple majority of members present and voting.
- iv. The quorum for the meetings of the Zonal **Executive** Committee shall be one-third of its membership.
- v. The provisions of **this sub-article**, shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the Senatorial District meetings.

25.5 Polling Unit Committee

- i. The Polling Unit Committee shall meet every month and or at any other time **as may be** decided by the Chairman or at the request of majority of its committee members, provided **that** not less than **twenty-four (24) hours** notice **shall be** given for the meeting.
- ii. Without prejudice to the provisions of **sub-article (i) above**, the Polling Unit Committee may summon an emergency Committee meeting at any time provided that at least **twenty-four (24) hours** notice **shall be** given to members eligible to attend.
- iii. Decisions at the meetings of the Polling Unit Committee shall be by simple majority of members present and voting.
- iv. Quorum for the meetings of the Polling Unit Committee shall be **one-third of its members**.

Amended for proper distribution of power

Provide for regulation of NWC meetings

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	<p>25.6 General Rules for the Conduct of Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. No motion shall be entertained at a meeting unless at least two (2) days' notice of such motion had been given in writing to the Secretary or to the Chairman, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a motion that any subject be deferred or referred to a Committee or some appropriate body, b) a motion for adjournment, and c) a motion proposing an amendment to some opinion or motion already presented at the same meeting. ii. Every motion and amendment of any motion shall be seconded before discussion. iii. A motion for amendment of any motion may be withdrawn at any time at the request of the mover. iv. In urgent or emergency situations, the Chairman of a meeting shall have the discretion to dispense or not with the requirement to give notice of motion. v. Deliberations at a meeting shall be strictly on the subject matter(s) listed on the agenda of the meeting provided that general issues may be presented or discussed at the end of the main agenda. Except upon a duly notified motion, a fresh deliberation or debate on a matter already concluded shall not be permitted. vi. A member shall indicate a desire to speak by a show of hand and shall speak only when called upon to do so by the Chairman. vii. Any member who deviates from these rules or from the agenda of a meeting shall immediately be called to order by the Chairman or by another member raising a point of order. viii. The Chairman of a meeting shall have the power to ask any erring member to leave the meeting. ix. Voting on any subject at a meeting shall be by show of hand or voice vote or by secret ballot as the meeting may decide. x. Except as otherwise expressly provided for in this Constitution, decisions of any organ of the Party shall be taken by a simple majority of the members present and voting. xi. Any officer of the Party who is absent from a meeting for three consecutive times without reasonable cause, shall be liable to disciplinary action. 	
26	<p>ARTICLE 26 QUORUM</p> <p>Except as otherwise expressly provided for in this Constitution, one-third of the members of any organ of the Party shall constitute a quorum for a valid meeting.</p>	
27	<p>ARTICLE 27: VENUE OF MEETINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The venue for all meetings of the organs of the Party at all levels shall be as approved by the leadership of the Party or the organ. ii. Meetings of the Party may be held virtually by electronic means or a combination of physical and virtual modes. 	Amended to provide for virtual meetings
28	<p>ARTICLE 28: COMMON SEAL</p> <p>There shall be a common seal of the Party, which shall be in the custody of the National Secretary.</p>	
29	<p>ARTICLE 29: OATH OF OFFICE</p> <p>Every officer elected or appointed as an officer of the Party shall subscribe to the Oath of Office as provided in Schedule II to this Constitution before an official designated by the National Working Committee.</p>	Amended for clarity and elegance
30	<p>ARTICLE 30: AMENDMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. This Constitution and the Schedules hereto shall be amended by the National Convention of the Party. ii. Notice of any proposed amendment by any member or organ of the Party shall be given to the National Secretary at least twenty-one (21) days before the date of the National Convention. The notice, which shall be in writing, shall contain a clear statement of the proposed amendment and reasons thereof. iii. Notice of proposed amendment(s) shall be served on the members of the National Convention at least fourteen (14) days before the date of the meeting at which the proposed amendment is to be considered. Publication of the notice of the proposed amendments in a National Newspaper shall be deemed to be sufficient notice. iv. The Constitution or any part thereof shall stand amended if a proposed amendment is supported by at least two-thirds of the delegates present and voting. v. Where new positions and offices are created as a result of the amendment of this Constitution, the relevant Executive Committee shall until the next Convention or Congress fill such positions and offices in an interim capacity. 	Amended for clarity

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**ARTICLE 31:
OMINIBUS PROVISIONS**

31.1 Gender and Affirmative Action

- i. In demonstration of the Party's commitment to ensuring greater participation of women in its affairs and government at all levels, the Party shall work towards the progressive realisation of gender equity.
- ii. The National Working Committee shall design the mechanism for achieving this objective, subject to the approval of the National Executive Committee.

Amended to provide for affirmative action for women

31.2 Nominations

In furtherance of the provisions of this Constitution regarding nominations to elective offices:

- i. No person shall be eligible to contest for any Party position or office or be nominated by the Party to be its candidate at any election, if the person is not a member of the Party.
- ii. All nominations into elective offices shall be supported by a specified number of nominators from the relevant constituencies as may be prescribed or provided for in the Party's Electoral Guidelines.
- iii. Any Party office holder interested in contesting for an elective office (whether party office or office in a general election) shall resign and leave office 30 days prior to the date of election or Party primary for the office sought.

31.3 Waiver

- i. Subject to the approval of the National Executive Committee, the National Working Committee may, in special circumstances, grant a waiver to a person seeking a national Party office, who is otherwise not qualified under this Constitution if, in its opinion, such a waiver is in the best interest of the Party.
- ii. Subject to the approval of the National Executive Committee, the National Working Committee may, in special circumstances, grant a waiver to a person seeking the office of President, Vice President, Governor, Deputy Governor, Senator, member of the House Representatives, who is otherwise not qualified under this Constitution if, in its opinion, such a waiver is in the best interest of the Party.
- iii. Subject to the approval of the State Executive Committee, the State Working Committee may, in special circumstances, grant a waiver to a person seeking election to a party office at the State level and below or office of member of House of Assembly and below, who is otherwise not qualified under this Constitution if, in its opinion, such a waiver is in the best interest of the Party.

Provide for clarity and extension to State level

31.4 Conditions for Waiver

A person may be granted a waiver only on condition that:

- i. He has not been convicted by any court of competent jurisdiction for any criminal offence.
- ii. He has applied for waiver in writing to the National Working Committee/State Working Committee of the Party.
- iii. He has signed an undertaking to uphold and implement the manifesto of the Party in the event of winning the election.

Provide for method for filling vacancies for elected officers

31.5 Vacancy

In the event of vacancy, the office shall be filled as follows:

- i. In the case of a National/Zonal Officer, the State Executive Committee shall propose a replacement to the State Congress and Zonal Executive Committee for endorsement. Thereafter, the name shall be sent to the National Working Committee, which shall forward same to the National Executive Committee for approval.
- ii. In the case of State Officer, the Local Government/Area Council Executive Committee shall propose a replacement to the Local Government /Area Council Congress for endorsement. Thereafter, the name shall be sent to the State Executive Committee for approval.
- iii. In the case of Local Government/Ward Officer, the Local Government/Ward Executive Committee shall propose a replacement to the Local Government/Ward Congress for endorsement. Thereafter, the name shall be sent to the Local Government Executive Committee for onward transmission to the State Executive Committee for approval.
- iv. The names and designations of officers in (i)–(iii) above, shall be forwarded to the National Working Committee.

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32	<p>ARTICLE 32: INTERPRETATION</p> <p>The National Advisory Council shall be the final authority with regard to the interpretation of the provisions of this Constitution.</p>	Amended for clarity
33	<p>ARTICLE 33: DEFINITIONS</p> <p>Unless the context otherwise requires:</p> <p>“Geo-political Zone” means a geographical region of Nigeria namely North East; North West; North Central; South East, South West and South South.</p> <p>“He” includes “she”.</p> <p>“North” means the States in the Northern part of Nigeria, including the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja .</p> <p>“South” means the States in the Southern part of Nigeria.</p> <p>“Youth” means a person between the ages of 18 and 40 years.</p> <p>“Zone” means the States in Northern and Southern Nigeria, respectively.</p> <p>SCHEDULE I</p> <p>1. OATH OF ALLEGIANCE</p> <p>I, do solemnly swear/affirm that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the All Progressives Congress (APC) and the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and that I will preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of All Progressives Congress and of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. So help me God.</p> <p>OATH OF OFFICE</p> <p>I, do solemnly swear/affirm that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the All Progressives Congress (APC) that as of All Progressives Congress (APC), I will discharge my duties to the best of my ability, faithfully and in accordance with the Constitution of the Party and always in the interest of the integrity, solidarity, well-being and prosperity of the Party as contained in its Constitution and Manifesto; that I will not allow my personal interest to influence my official conduct or my official decisions; that I will to the best of my ability preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the Party. That I will do right to all the members of the Party and to all manner of people according to law, without fear or favour, affection or ill-will; that I will not directly or indirectly communicate or reveal to any person any matter which shall be brought under my consideration or become known to me as an officer of the party, except as may be required for the due discharge of my duties as an officer of the party, and I will devote myself to the service and well-being of members of the party and the people of Nigeria, so help me God.</p>	Amended for clarity

SEN. JOHN JAMES AKPANUDOEDEHE PH.D

NATIONAL SECRETARY

CARETAKER/EXTRAORDINARY CONVENTION PLANNING COMMITTEE